



**Saturday December 4**  
**4pm ~ Intentions of all our Parishioners**

**Sunday December 5**  
**8am ~ Linda Bousquet**, Birthday  
 Remembrance, requested by her sister Patty Kennedy

**10:30am ~ Julia Lawlor**, Birthday  
 Remembrance, requested by Pat Lawlor

**Monday December 6**  
**8am ~ Walter Wisnewski**, Birthday  
 Remembrance, requested by his family  
**Henry Callahan**, 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary, requested by Dan & Sue Martin

**Tuesday December 7**  
**8am ~ Birthday Blessings for John Stephan McKenzie** requested by his family

**Wednesday December 8**  
**8am ~ Frank Maglio, Jr.**, requested by Carol Martin  
**10am ~ Intentions of all our Parishioners**  
**7pm ~ In Honor of St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Thursday December 9**  
**8am ~ Christopher Edwards**, 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, requested by his aunts Georgette & Andrea  
**Arlene Callahan** requested by Dan & Sue Martin

**Friday December 10**  
**8am ~ No Mass**

**Saturday December 11**  
**4pm ~ Charles Hudson**, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, requested by his wife & children

**Sunday December 12**  
**8am ~ Aldo Larese**, 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary, requested by the Raby family  
**Francisco Silva**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, requested by Lucy  
**10:30am ~ Intentions of all our Parishioners**

**Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is a Holy Day of Obligation. It is the Immaculate Conception. Masses are as follows: 8:00 & 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.**



**Sunday, December 5**  
 Faith Life Parent Session, 11:30 AM, in the school cafeteria  
 Coffee & Donuts, 11:30 AM, in the parish center  
 Advent Cluster Penance Service, 2:00 PM, at Mary Queen of Peace, Salem, NH  
 Men & Women AA, 7:00-8:00 PM, in the school

**Monday, December 6**  
 Faith Life Parent Session, 6:00 PM, in the school cafeteria

**Tuesday, December 7**  
 Food Pantry, 6:30-7:30 PM  
 Holy Hour for Life, 6:00-7:00 PM, in the church

**Wednesday, December 8**  
 Men's Morning Group, 6:00-7:00 AM, in the chapel  
 Adoration, 8:30-9:30 AM and 2:00-6:00 PM  
 Food Pantry, 1:00-2:30 PM  
 Women's AA, 7:00-8:30 PM, in the school

**Thursday, December 9**  
 Men's AA, 7:00 PM, in the school  
 Praise Band, 7:00 PM, in the church

**Friday, December 10**  
 Men & Women AA, 7:00-8:00 PM, in the school  
**Saturday, December 11**

Grade 3 First Communion Retreat, 9:00-11:30 AM, in the school cafeteria



This week the Sanctuary Candle is in memory of **Charles Hudson**, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, by his wife & children



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Gospel today begins with a series of names and places. Some names are familiar (Pontius Pilate, Annas and Caiaphas, Judea, and Galilee), but some might not be so familiar (Philip the tetrarch, Iturea, Lysanias, and which one of the six Herods is Luke referring to?!). Luke is very purposeful in this, though. He is writing to the Greeks and is well aware of the mythology of their religions. He is placing the Gospel in stark contrast to the Greek myths. How so? The Greek myths happen in a sort of “once upon a time,” not in history. St. Luke is grounding the Gospel in history – in this particular time, at this particular place, when these well-known people were in authority. The Gospel is not a myth. It is not legend. It is history.

This is important for us, because many in the world today would love to make Jesus a mythical figure. There are some who even deny that Jesus existed, even though there are more historical records (biblical and non-biblical) that Jesus existed than that Socrates existed. Jesus is not a myth. He really lived. He really was crucified. We believe, as Christians, that He really rose from the dead. For an excellent argument for the validity of the historicity of the Gospels, I invite you to go to Dr. Brant Pitre’s *A Case for Jesus* – we gave the book away a few years ago, and there is a video series free on [FORMED.org](http://FORMED.org) (to sign up for FORMED, go to [pelham.formed.org](http://pelham.formed.org)).

St. John the Baptist is introduced in today’s readings (and we’ll hear more about him next weekend), calling for the need for repentance. He saw himself as the forerunner (the “voice of one crying out in the desert” [Luke 3:4]). He was a witness to Jesus (recognizing that Jesus was the Messiah), and that he had to prepare the way for the Lord’s coming.

Last week, I talked in my homily about preparing for the Lord’s coming – at Christmas, at the end of time, and at Holy Communion. St. John’s call to repentance (to turn our lives away from sin and embrace the path toward God) invites us also to repent – but, more than that, to examine our own relationship with Jesus. Are we affected by the world that questions Jesus’ Divinity? I would say that very often *we are*. We are surrounded by an age of skepticism, and even in our belief, we can live as practical atheists.

What does that mean? To be a practical atheist means that even though we profess with our lips the belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, even though we believe it in our minds, we live our lives as if there is no God. We live as if God is a myth. This is so easy to do. We say we believe that God is a loving Father, yet we so easily strive to fill our emptiness with the pleasures of the world – food, drink, drugs, sex, entertainment, shopping, power, etc.. When this is our focus, we say by our actions, “I don’t believe God is going to fill my emptiness.” I’m not saying that pleasure is bad. Too often, though, we run from the discomfort of loneliness, emptiness, and pain into the arms of the pleasures of the world, instead of running to the arms of our Father, asking Him to show us how we are to grow through those struggles, and asking Him to be our fulfillment.

As we prepare for the coming(s) of Christ, let us take this Advent to examine our lives, our relationship with Jesus, and what we really believe about Him. Let us ask Him for the grace and strength to trust His love, and to choose to act as believers, not as practical atheists.



**SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS  
&  
NEW YEAR'S MASS**

**Christmas Eve – December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 PM  
Christmas Eve Mass 7:00 PM

**Christmas Day – December 25<sup>th</sup>**

Midnight Mass 12:00 AM  
Christmas Day Mass 9:30 AM

**New Year's Eve – December 31<sup>st</sup>**

The Solemnity of Mary 5:30 PM

**New Year's Day – January 1<sup>st</sup>**

The Solemnity of Mary 9:30 AM

**HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE**

Join us for the first Tuesday of the month, **December 7<sup>th</sup>, from 6-7 PM** for a Holy Hour for Life in the Church. In this time before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we will pray for a cultivation of the Culture of Life. There will be guided prayer as well as time for silence. Please contact Fr. Von ([fathervon@comcast.net](mailto:fathervon@comcast.net) or 635-3525) if you have any questions.

**ADVENT RETREAT**

Join Fr. Von for two mini Advent Retreats on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00 PM in the youth room at the school. You do not need to register. Attend one or both, as your schedule allows.

**The Cluster Advent Penance Service is being held on this Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM at Mary Queen of Peace in Salem, NH.**



The Christmas Pageant will be at the **4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve.**

Christmas Pageant rehearsals will be on Sundays after the 10:30 AM Mass (approximately 11:35 AM) on **December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**. To sign up or get more information, please email Wendy Williams at [garywendy6@comcast.net](mailto:garywendy6@comcast.net)



Are you seeking “knowledge and full insight to help you determine” your vocation in Christ as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life?

Contact the Vocation Office at (603)663-0196 or email: [mmason@rcbm.org](mailto:mmason@rcbm.org).

**PELHAM GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND**

The Pelham Good Neighbor Fund is sponsoring the Christmas Gift Program again this year. This is our chance to help our less fortunate neighbors by providing gifts for their children. Watch for the tags with attached gift requests. Simply choose one of the tags purchase the gift and return the gift with the tag attached to the **Chapel by Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please do not wrap the gift.** Thanks for helping to make this Christmas season a little brighter for some of our local children.

**SCHLORSHIPS FOR CAMP  
FATIMA/BERNADETTE**

We are pleased to announce that Bishop Libasci is making scholarships available to youth aged 6 to 15 to attend Camps Fatima and Bernadette in 2022! This is possible in accordance with the terms of a bequest received by the diocese. The youth must be Catholic and residing in New Hampshire. If interested, please contact the Parish Office for an application.



## A Family of Faith - December

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." - John 1:14

The Season of Advent is a great time of preparation to celebrate this amazing Truth. God took on flesh, became His creation, in order to save it. At the end of November, we paused at our community gathering to talk about Advent and how we can prepare as a family for the Birth of Christ. I thought I might take the time to share some of the ideas and traditions we discussed.

-The Advent Candles and Wreath

Just as we light another Advent Candle at Mass every Sunday of the season it is also tradition to mirror this in our own homes. Do we have our Advent Wreaths out so that we may pause at home in prayer in preparation for the Savior.

-Family Advent Covenant

What is a promise you can make as a family this Advent Season to better prepare for the Solemnity of Christmas?

-Advent Sacrifice Manger

Each family created a simple manger, which starts empty at the beginning of the season. With each act of love, sacrifice or extra prayer prayed the manger is slowly filled with pieces of hay. This is how we can best prepare for Christmas, by serving others.

-Birthday Party for Jesus

On Christmas Day, let us plan a great celebration! This is the Holy Solemnity of Christmas! Let us leap with Joy and sing praises to His name.

A Blessed Advent and Christmas Season to every one of you.

**The Deadline for Christmas Memorials is Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.**

## PARISH COLLECTIONS

In order for the parish to meet its regular expenses, our offertory and other designated parish collections must bring in **\$8,700** per week.

Parish Collections for the week of 11/21/21

Offertory Envelopes	\$4,967
Offertory Electronic Giving	\$2,164
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$7,131</b>

Parish Collections for the week of 11/28/21

Offertory Envelopes	\$12,421
Offertory Electronic Giving	\$3,078
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$15,499</b>

Faith Life

\$1,042

**Total Collected** **\$23,672**

Thank you for supporting our parish

~Fr. Von~

## Human Development

collected as of 11/21/21

\$1,340

Thank you for your generosity!

## Emergency Fund

collected as of 11/25/21

\$1,243

Thank you for your generosity!

## SECOND ENVELOPES FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKS

### Dec. 12 Retired Religious

This collection supports retired Religious sisters and brothers through grants to Religious communities in NH and around the United States

### Dec. 19 Maintenance

This collection helps with the Church and School grounds.

### Dec. 26 Faith Life Formation

This collection helps with expenses for Faith Life.

Your contributions toward the support of the parish and its ministries are greatly appreciated.

## **CHURCH & PARISH OFFICES**

12 Main St.  
Pelham, NH 03076  
603-635-3525 (office)  
603-635-3919 (fax number)

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00

## **PARISH WEBSITE**

Website: [www.stpatricks-pelham.com](http://www.stpatricks-pelham.com)

### **Pastor**

Rev. Volney J. DeRosia - Ext. 15  
Email: [fathervon@comcast.net](mailto:fathervon@comcast.net)

### **Priest in Residence**

Msgr. Richard J. Kelley  
Email: [rkelly4372@gmail.com](mailto:rkelly4372@gmail.com)

### **Faith Life Director**

Adam Castor 603-635-1447 Ext. 14  
Email: [faithlifeformation@comcast.net](mailto:faithlifeformation@comcast.net)

### **Business Manager**

Therese Soucy - Ext. 11  
Email: [therese42852@comcast.net](mailto:therese42852@comcast.net)

### **Secretary**

Kathleen Jean - Ext. 10  
Email: [kathy7421@comcast.net](mailto:kathy7421@comcast.net)

### **Music Ministry**

Gary Williams 603-635-7669  
Email: [garywendy6@comcast.net](mailto:garywendy6@comcast.net)

Steve Caruso 603-401-0837

### **Help Souls on their way to Heaven**

When Fr. Von gets called to anoint people who are dying, he calls on a group of people to pray a **Divine Mercy Chaplet** for them.

If you would like to join this ministry or want more information, contact Fr. Von at (603)-635-3525 or [fathervon@comcast.net](mailto:fathervon@comcast.net).

### **PRAYER LINE**

Please contact Lillian Murgia at 603-635-2634 or [Lmurgia\\_871@comcast.net](mailto:Lmurgia_871@comcast.net)

## **MASS SCHEDULE**

*Saturday* 4PM  
*Sunday* 8AM, 10:30AM

## **WEEKDAYS MASS SCHEDULE**

*Monday through Thursday* 8am  
*Friday* No Mass  
*First Friday and First Saturday* 8am

## **HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE**

*Holy Day* 8am, 10am & 7pm

## **ADORATION**

*Monday-Thursday* 6:30-7:40am  
*Wednesday* 8:30-9:30am  
2:00-8:00pm

For more information, or to sign up for Wednesday Adoration, contact Kathleen Garon at 978-482-5380

## **RECONCILIATION**

*Saturday* 3pm to 3:45pm  
or by appointment

## **ANOINTING OF THE SICK & COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND**

*Please contact the Parish Office for arrangements*

## **BAPTISM**

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule a baptism. Parents are required to meet with the pastor and participate in a baptismal catechetical session prior to the celebration of the sacrament.

## **MARRIAGE**

Arrangements with the parish must be made at least nine months prior to the wedding. Fulfillment of a Diocesan, pre-marriage program is required.

## **FORMED**

To help you grow in your faith go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) to register, go to [pelham.formed.org](http://pelham.formed.org)

## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Care to join the Knights of Columbus? Please contact Erick Wright at 603-635-8772 or [eqwright@comcast.net](mailto:eqwright@comcast.net). More information online: [www.kofcpelhamnh.org](http://www.kofcpelhamnh.org)